

**ST. GEORGE CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
APRIL 14, 2016, 4:00 P.M.
ADMINISTRATIVE CONFERENCE ROOM**

PRESENT:

**Mayor Jon Pike
Councilmember Jimmie Hughes
Councilmember Michele Randall
Councilmember Joe Bowcutt
Councilmember Ed Baca
City Manager Gary Esplin
City Attorney Shawn Guzman
City Recorder Christina Fernandez**

EXCUSED:

Councilmember Bette Arial

OPENING:

Mayor Pike called the meeting to order and welcomed all in attendance. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was led by student Brian Owen and the invocation was offered by Pastor Jonathan Hendren with the New Beginning Christian Fellowship.

RESOLUTION/ADOPT THE 2016-2017 PRELIMINARY BUDGET:

Consider approval of a resolution adopting the 2016-2017 Preliminary Budget.

City Manager Gary Esplin explained under state law, the preliminary budget needs to be presented prior to the first meeting in May. He stated the budget is balanced and is not suggesting any changes in tax rates. There will be a discussion with regard to a recommended increase in the Water Department as the wholesale costs will increase, as well as a few other minor fee increases. The budget represents approximately \$195 million, last year it was \$180 million. The increase is due to some Capital Projects and monies being transferred from the Airport Fund to the TIF Fund. He is not recommending any transfers from Capital Project funds to the General Fund, other than to finish current projects that will not be completed prior to the end of the current fiscal year. A budget committee discussed concepts and challenges. Approximately \$10 million was cut from Department Head requests. In his letter, he addressed issues that need to be looked at but were not funded. He stated that he believes capital projects that involve a facility generating tax for other entities; they should share in the cost. Additionally, he proposed to continue with the employee market increases and to fund a possible increase in insurance costs. He mentioned that he feels good about the budget and believes it meets the needs of the community. Three new fire trucks will be acquired through a lease program and the lease program for the police vehicles will be paid off. He addressed a new fire station in the Little Valley area, overflow parking concerns for the All Abilities Park and comp time concerns with regard to staffing issues in the Fire Department.

Mayor Pike suggested the Council review the preliminary budget.

City Manager Gary Esplin explained this is a preliminary budget and suggested setting dates in May for Department Heads to present their budgets. Further, the Council will have to decide if they would prefer to have one public hearing or two.

The consensus of the Council is to set the meetings for May 12 and May 26 and have the public hearings on June 2 and June 16.

City Manager Gary Esplin explained that the Department Heads will present their budgets and if the Council wants to make changes they can. He updated the Council on the Electric Refunding Bonds – the City will see a savings of \$5 million.

MOTION: A motion was made by Councilmember Hughes to approve the resolution adopting the 2016-2017 Preliminary Budget.

SECOND: The motion was seconded by Councilmember Bowcutt.

VOTE: Mayor Pike called for a roll call vote, as follows:

Councilmember Hughes – aye
Councilmember Randall - aye
Councilmember Bowcutt – aye
Councilmember Baca – aye

The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

REPORT FROM MAYOR, COUNCILMEMBERS AND CITY MANAGER:

No reports were given.

The Council travelled for the following:

Site tour and demonstration of the Police Department's shooting range, 867 West Red Hills Parkway.

Police Department staff provided a site tour and demonstration of the Police Department's shooting range, vehicles and equipment.

Site tour at JC Snow Park, 900 South 400 East, to view the horseshoe pits.

Leisure Services Director Kent Perkins, Parks Department and Streets Department staff provided a site tour of JC Snow Park horseshoe pits.

City Manager Gary Esplin explained how the horseshoe pits were funded and stated that the work was completed in-house.

Site tour of Vernon Worthen Park greenhouse, 300 South, 400 East, and discussion on the proposed upgrades to the park.

Leisure Services Director Kent Perkins and Parks Department staff provided a site tour of the green house located at Vernon Worthen Park.

ADJOURN:

MOTION: A motion was made by Councilmember Hughes to adjourn.

SECOND: The motion was seconded by Councilmember Randall.

VOTE: Mayor Pike called for a vote, as follows:

Councilmember Hughes – aye
Councilmember Randall - aye
Councilmember Bowcutt – aye
Councilmember Baca – aye

The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

Christina Fernandez, City Recorder